

Serial No.: 09/905,679

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Withdrawn) The clip applier of claim 7, wherein the actuation assembly moves the clip channel relative to a fixed outer shaft.

9-24. (Canceled)

Please add the following new claims 25-107:

25. (New) An apparatus for applying polymeric latching clips in an endoscopic surgical procedure, comprising:

- (a) an elongate assembly for containing polymeric latching clips and comprising a distal end; and
- (b) a jaw assembly for receiving a clip from the elongate assembly, the jaw assembly comprising first, second, third and fourth jaw legs spaced apart from each other for substantially simultaneously engaging at least four portions of the clip, each leg extending from the distal end and actuatable toward at least one other opposing leg for compressing the clip.

26. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a channel for containing the clips.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

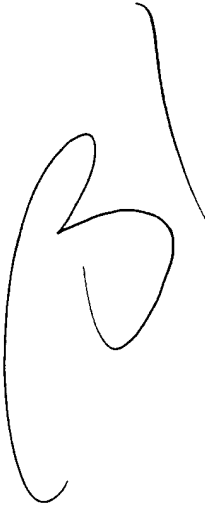
27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the jaw assembly is attached to channel.
28. (New) The apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a jaw actuating member axially movable relative to the channel into contact with the jaw assembly for actuating the jaw assembly.
29. (New) The apparatus according to claim 28 wherein the jaw actuating member comprises a hollow shaft, and the channel is disposed in the hollow shaft.
30. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the first, second, third and fourth legs comprise respective first, second, third and fourth hook members for respectively engaging the four clip portions.
31. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the first, second, third and fourth legs generally define an aperture of the jaw assembly into which the clip is received, the second leg is spaced from the first leg in opposing relation thereto, the third leg is spaced from the first leg generally across a cross-section of the aperture, and the fourth leg is

Serial No.: 09/905,679

spaced from the third leg in opposing relation thereto and is spaced from the second leg generally across the cross-section.

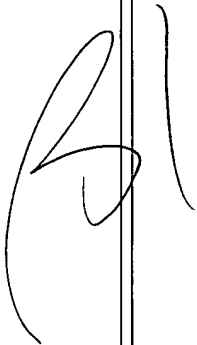
32. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the first and second legs are adjoined at a first bridge member and are deformable toward each other during actuation of the jaw assembly, and the third and fourth legs are adjoined at a second bridge member and are deformable toward each other during actuation of the jaw assembly.
33. (New) The apparatus according to claim 32 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a fixed member, and the first and second bridge members are respectively attached to opposing sides of the non-actuatable member.
34. (New) The apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the fixed member comprises a channel for containing the clips.
35. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the elongate assembly comprises first, second, third, and fourth pivot points, and the first, second, third, and fourth legs are pivotably attached to the respective first, second, third, and fourth pivot points.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

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36. (New) The apparatus according to claim 35 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a fixed member, and the first, second, third, and fourth pivot points are disposed on the fixed member.
37. (New) The apparatus according to claim 36 wherein the non-actuable member comprises a channel for containing the clips.
38. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the first, second, third, and fourth legs comprise respective first, second, third, and fourth jaw cam surfaces, and the elongate assembly comprises a jaw actuating member axially movable into contact with the first, second, third, and fourth jaw cam surfaces for actuating the jaw assembly.
39. (New) The apparatus according to claim 38 wherein the jaw actuating member comprises first, second, third, and fourth distal cam surfaces respectively engageable with the first, second, third, and fourth jaw cam surfaces in response to movement of the jaw actuating member toward the jaw assembly.
40. (New) The apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the jaw actuating member comprises a shaft, and the first, second, third, and fourth distal

Serial No.: 09/905,679

cam surfaces are formed on the shaft and generally spaced around a cross-section of the shaft.

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41. (New) An apparatus for applying polymeric latching clips in an endoscopic surgical procedure, comprising:
- (a) an elongate assembly for containing polymeric latching clips and comprising an axially movable distal end section, the distal end section comprising a plurality of distal cam surfaces generally spaced around a cross-section of the distal end section;
 - (b) a jaw assembly comprising first and second opposing jaws for compressing a clip therebetween, the jaw assembly extending from the elongate assembly; and
 - (c) an actuator assembly communicating with the distal end section for actuating the distal cam surfaces into contact with the jaw assembly to cam the first and second jaws toward each other.
42. (New) The apparatus according to claim 41 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a channel for containing the clips.
43. (New) The apparatus according to claim 42 wherein the distal end section is movable relative to the channel.

Serial No.: 09/905,679


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44. (New) The apparatus according to claim 41 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a shaft generally interposed between the distal end section and the actuator assembly, and the shaft is actuatable by the actuator assembly for moving the distal end section.
45. (New) The apparatus according to claim 44 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a channel for containing the clips, the channel is disposed within the shaft, and the shaft and distal end section are movable relative to the channel.
46. (New) The apparatus according to claim 41 wherein the distal end section has a distal opening, and the first and second jaws extend through the distal opening for receiving the clip through the distal opening from the elongate assembly.
47. (New) The apparatus according to claim 41 wherein the jaw assembly comprises first, second, third and fourth jaw legs for substantially simultaneously engaging at least four portions of the clip, the first jaw of the jaw assembly comprises the first and third legs, the second jaw of the jaw assembly comprises the second and fourth legs, and each distal cam surface is aligned with the jaw assembly for engaging at least one of the legs.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

48. (New) The apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the second leg is spaced from the first leg in opposing relation thereto, the third leg is spaced from the first leg, and the fourth leg is spaced from the third leg in opposing relation thereto.
49. (New) An apparatus for applying polymeric latching clips in an endoscopic surgical procedure, comprising:
- (a) an elongate assembly for containing polymeric latching clips, the elongate assembly comprising a distal end, an axially movable clip feeding member, and an axially movable jaw actuating member;
 - (b) a jaw assembly extending from the distal end and comprising first and second opposing jaws for compressing a clip therebetween; and
 - (c) an actuator assembly actuatable through a first stage and a subsequent second stage of a forward stroke, the actuator assembly coupled with the clip feeding member for moving the clip feeding member into contact with the clip to feed the clip into the jaw assembly during the first stage, and the actuator assembly communicating with the jaw actuating member for moving the jaw actuating member into contact with the jaw assembly to close the

Serial No.: 09/905,679


clip during the second stage, wherein the clip feeding member remains coupled with the actuator assembly for maintaining contact with the clip during the second stage.

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50. (New) The apparatus according to claim 49 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a channel for containing the clips, and the clip feeding member and jaw actuating member are axially movable relative to the channel.
51. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50 wherein the jaw actuating member comprises a shaft, and the channel is disposed in the shaft.
52. (New) The apparatus according to claim 49 wherein the jaw actuating member comprises a shaft, and the clip feeding member is disposed in the shaft.
53. (New) The apparatus according to claim 49 wherein the actuator assembly comprises a movable yoke, and the clip feeding member contacts the yoke and is urged thereby toward the distal end during the first and second stages.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

54. (New) The apparatus according to claim 53 wherein the actuator assembly comprises a spring contacting the clip feeding member for biasing the clip feeding member into contact with the yoke.
55. (New) The apparatus according to claim 53 wherein the actuator assembly comprises a trigger engageable with the yoke for moving the yoke toward the distal end during the first and second stages.
56. (New) The apparatus according to claim 53 wherein the jaw actuating member comprises a distal section for contacting the jaw assembly during the second stage, and an opposing proximal section, and the yoke is movable into contact with the proximal section for coupling the actuator assembly with the jaw actuating member during the second stage.
57. (New) The apparatus according to claim 56 wherein the actuator assembly comprises a spring contacting the yoke for biasing the yoke toward the proximal section of the jaw actuating member.
58. (New) An apparatus for applying polymeric latching clips in an endoscopic surgical procedure, comprising:

Serial No.: 09/905,679

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- (a) an elongate assembly for containing polymeric latching clips, the elongate assembly comprising a distal end and an axially movable clip feeding device;
 - (b) a jaw assembly extending from the distal end and comprising first and second opposing jaws for compressing a clip therebetween, the first and second jaws comprising respective first and second hook structures; and
 - (c) an actuator assembly coupled with clip feeding device for moving the clip feeding device toward the jaw assembly during a clip feeding stroke and a subsequent clip opening stroke wherein, during the clip feeding stroke, the actuator assembly moves the clip feeding device into contact with the clip for feeding the clip from the elongate assembly into the jaw assembly and, during the clip opening stroke, the actuator assembly through the clip feeding device urges the clip against the first and second hook structures for forcing the clip and the first and second jaws into a fully open position.

59. (New) The apparatus according to claim 58 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a channel for containing the clips.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

60. (New) The apparatus according to claim 59 wherein the channel has a channel width sized for containing the clips in a partially compressed state.
61. (New) The apparatus according to claim 60 wherein the first and second jaws define an aperture therebetween for receiving the clip from the elongate assembly during the clip feeding stroke, the first and second jaws are positioned in an unactuated, partially open state during the clip feeding stroke, and at the unactuated state the aperture has an aperture width substantially equal to the channel width for receiving a clip in the partially compressed state prior to the clip opening stroke.
62. (New) The apparatus according to claim 58 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a jaw actuating member movable by the actuator assembly into contact with the jaw assembly for actuating the first and second jaws toward a closed position subsequent to the clip opening stroke.
63. (New) The apparatus according to claim 58 wherein the actuator assembly comprises a movable yoke for moving the clip feeding member toward the jaw assembly during the clip feeding stroke and the clip opening stroke.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

64. (New) The apparatus according to claim 63 wherein the actuator assembly comprises a trigger engageable with the yoke for moving the yoke toward the jaw assembly during the clip feeding stroke and the clip opening stroke.
65. (New) The apparatus according to claim 58 wherein the jaw assembly comprises first, second, third and fourth legs, the first, second, third and fourth legs respectively comprise first, second, third and fourth hooks extending therefrom, the first jaw of the jaw assembly comprises the first and third legs, the second jaw of the jaw assembly comprises the second and fourth legs, the first hook structure comprises the first and third hooks, and the second hook structure comprises the second and fourth hooks.
66. (New) The apparatus according to claim 65 wherein the first, second, third and fourth legs generally define an aperture of the jaw assembly into which the clip is received, the second leg and second hook are respectively spaced from the first leg and first hook in opposing relation thereto, the third leg and third hook are respectively spaced from the first leg and first hook generally across a cross-section of the aperture, and fourth leg and fourth hook are respectively spaced from the third leg and

Serial No.: 09/905,679

third hook in opposing relation thereto and are respectively spaced from the second leg and second hook generally across the cross-section.

67. (New) An apparatus for applying polymeric latching clips in an endoscopic surgical procedure, comprising:
- (a) an elongate assembly for containing a polymeric latching clips, the elongate assembly comprising an elongate assembly distal end;
 - (b) a jaw assembly extending from the elongate assembly distal end for receiving a clip from the elongate assembly; and
 - (c) a clip feeding member axially movable along a length of the elongate assembly for feeding the clip into the jaw assembly, the clip feeding member comprising a feeding member proximal end for coupling with an actuator and an opposing feeding member distal end, the feeding member distal end comprising a feeder tab, the feeder tab comprising a concave surface for contacting a convex proximal hinge portion of the clip.
68. (New) The apparatus according to claim 67 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a jaw actuating member movable into engagement with the jaw assembly for actuating the jaw assembly toward a closed position.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

69. (New) The apparatus according to claim 68 wherein the jaw actuating member comprises a shaft, and the clip feeding member is disposed in the shaft.
70. (New) The apparatus according to claim 69 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a channel for containing the clips, and the channel is disposed in the shaft.
71. (New) The apparatus according to claim 67 wherein the elongate assembly comprises a channel for containing the clips, and the clip feeding member is movable relative to the channel.
72. (New) The apparatus according to claim 67 wherein the feeding member distal end comprises a foot member for rotating the distalmost clip in the elongate assembly distal end in response to proximal movement of the clip feeding member.
73. (New) An apparatus for applying polymeric latching clips in an endoscopic surgical procedure, comprising:
- (a) an elongate assembly for containing polymeric latching clips, the elongate assembly comprising a clip feeding member and a jaw actuating member;

Serial No.: 09/905,679

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- (b) a jaw assembly for receiving clips from the elongate assembly;
 - (c) an actuator assembly comprising a ratchet surface, the actuator assembly coupled to the clip feeding member for moving the clip feeding member in a distal direction during a first stroke portion for feeding a clip into the jaw assembly, and forcing said clip to an open position once in the jaw assembly, and the actuator assembly communicating with the jaw actuating member for moving the jaw actuating member into engagement with the jaw assembly during a second stroke portion for closing the jaw assembly and allowing the jaw assembly to reopen; and
 - (d) a ratchet member coupled to the actuator assembly and actuatable into engagement with the ratchet surface during the first stroke portion for preventing movement of the clip feeding member in a proximal direction, and actuatable out of engagement with the ratchet surface during the second stroke portion for enabling movement of the jaw actuating member in both the distal and proximal directions.

74. (New) The apparatus according to claim 73 wherein the actuator assembly comprises a movable trigger communicating with the clip feeding member for moving the clip feeding member during the first

Serial No.: 09/905,679

stroke portion, and communicating with the jaw actuating member for moving the jaw actuating member during the second stroke portion.

75. (New) The apparatus according to claim 74 wherein the ratchet member is connected to the trigger and is movable therewith.
76. (New) The apparatus according to claim 74 wherein the actuator assembly comprises a movable yoke interposed between the trigger and the clip feeding member and jaw actuating member, for translating movement of the trigger during the first stroke portion into movement of the clip feeding member, and for translating movement of the trigger during the second stroke portion into movement of the jaw actuating member.
77. (New) The apparatus according to claim 73 wherein the actuator assembly comprises a yoke which includes a spring which contacts the clip feeding member for moving the clip feeding member during the first stroke portion, and the yoke is movable into contact with the jaw actuating member for moving the jaw actuating member during the second stroke portion.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

78. (New) The apparatus according to claim 73 wherein the actuator assembly comprises a user-grippable handle, and the ratchet surface is disposed in the handle.
79. (New) The apparatus according to claim 73 comprising a ratchet guide, the ratchet guide comprising the ratchet surface and a smooth surface, wherein the ratchet member is movable along the ratchet portion incrementally in a forward direction during the first stroke portion, and the ratchet member is movable along the smooth portion in the forward direction and alternatively in a reverse direction during the second stroke portion.
80. (New) An apparatus for applying polymeric latching clips in an endoscopic surgical procedure, comprising:
- (a) an elongate assembly for containing polymeric latching clips and comprising a distal end;
 - (b) a jaw assembly extending from the distal end for receiving clips from the elongate assembly;
 - (c) a clip feeding member axially movable along a length of the elongate assembly for feeding a clip into the jaw assembly;
 - (d) an actuator assembly actuatable through a forward stroke and a return stroke, the actuator assembly coupled to the clip feeding

Serial No.: 09/905,679

member for moving the clip feeding member toward the jaw assembly during the forward stroke to feed a clip therein and moving the clip feeding member away from the jaw assembly during the return stroke; and

- (e) a clip rotating member disposed in the distal end and contactable with the clip for rotating the clip in response to movement of the clip feeding member.

81. (New) The apparatus according to claim 80 wherein the clip rotating member extends from and is movable with the clip feeding member.

82. (New) The apparatus according to claim 80 wherein the clip rotating member is positioned to contact the clip during the return stroke.

83. (New) A method for applying a polymeric latching clip at a surgical site, comprising:

- (a) feeding a clip disposed in a clip applying apparatus into a jaw assembly thereof, wherein the jaw assembly comprises at least four jaw legs substantially simultaneously engaging at least four respective portions of the clip; and

Serial No.: 09/905,679

(b) actuating the jaw assembly to compress the clip while the at least four clip portions remain respectively engaged with the at least four jaw legs to stabilize the clip during compression.

84. (New) The method according to claim 83 wherein the clip comprises first and second bosses, and feeding the clip causes the first boss to engage two of the jaw legs and the second boss to engage another two of the jaw legs.

85. (New) The method according to claim 83 wherein the at least four jaw legs comprise first and second opposing pairs of legs, feeding the clip comprises feeding the clip into an aperture defined between the first and second jaw leg pairs, and actuating the jaw assembly comprises camming the first and second jaw leg pairs toward each other.

86. (New) The method according to claim 85 wherein camming comprises actuating a jaw actuating member into contact with the first and second jaw leg pairs.

87. (New) A method for applying a polymeric latching clip at a surgical site, comprising:

Serial No.: 09/905,679

- (a) feeding a clip disposed in a clip applying apparatus into a jaw assembly thereof, the jaw assembly comprising first and second opposing jaws; and
- (b) camming the first and second jaws together to compress the clip, by moving at least first and second jaw actuating surfaces into contact with the first jaw and moving at least third and fourth jaw actuating surfaces into contact with the second jaw, whereby the clip is compressed in a stable manner and subjected to forces distributed among the at least first, second, third, and fourth jaw actuating surfaces.

88. (New) The method according to claim 87 wherein the clip comprises first and second bosses, and feeding the clip causes the first and second bosses to engage the first and second jaws, respectively.

89. (New) The method according to claim 87 wherein the first jaw comprises first and second jaw legs, the second jaw comprises third and fourth jaw legs, and camming comprises moving the first and second jaw actuating surfaces into respective contact with the first and second jaw legs and moving the third and fourth actuating surfaces into respective contact with the third and fourth jaw legs.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

90. (New) The method according to claim 89 wherein camming comprises actuating a jaw actuating member comprising the first, second, third, and fourth jaw actuating cam surfaces.
91. (New) The method according to claim 90 wherein the jaw actuating member comprises a hollow shaft having a distal opening, the first, second, third, and fourth jaw actuating cam surfaces are spaced around the distal opening, and camming comprises moving the distal opening in a distal direction relative to the first, second, third, and fourth jaw legs.
92. (New) A method for applying a polymeric latching clip at a surgical site, comprising:
- (a) feeding a clip disposed in a clip applying apparatus into a jaw assembly thereof;
 - (b) actuating the jaw assembly to compress the clip by moving first and second opposing legs of the clip toward each other; and
 - (c) engaging a rear portion of the clip adjoining the first and second clip legs while actuating the jaw assembly to stabilize the clip during compression thereof.
93. (New) The method according to claim 92 wherein feeding the clip comprises actuating a clip feeding device engaging the rear clip portion

Serial No.: 09/905,679

toward the jaw assembly, and engaging the rear clip portion while actuating the jaw assembly comprises continuing to actuate the clip feeding device toward the jaw assembly to impart a force on the rear clip portion during compression of the clip by the jaw assembly.


94. (New) The method according to claim 92 wherein feeding the clip comprises actuating a clip feeding device contacting the clip during a first stage of a forward stroke, and actuating the jaw assembly comprises actuating a jaw actuating member communicating with the jaw assembly during a second stage of the forward stroke subsequent to the first stage while continuing to actuate the clip feeding device.

95. (New) A method for preparing a polymeric latching clip for application at a surgical site, comprising:

- (a) feeding a clip disposed in a clip applying apparatus into first and second opposing jaws of a jaw assembly of the apparatus, wherein the first jaw comprises a first hook structure, the second jaw comprises a second hook structure, and feeding the clip causes first and second opposing legs of the clip to engage the first and second hook structures, respectively; and
- (b) urging the first and second clip legs against the respective first and second hook structures to urge the clip and the jaw assembly

Serial No.: 09/905,679

into a fully open state for facilitating positioning the clip at a surgical site in preparation for applying the clip.

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96. (New) The method according to claim 95 wherein feeding the clip comprises actuating a clip feeding device contacting the clip in a distal direction toward the jaw assembly, and urging the first and second clip legs comprises continuing to actuate the clip feeding device after feeding the clip.
97. (New) The method according to claim 95 wherein the clip comprises first and second bosses respectively extending from the first and second clip legs, and feeding the clip causes the first and second bosses to engage the first and second hook structures, respectively.
98. (New) The method according to claim 95 wherein the first hook structure comprises first and second spaced apart hooks, the second hook structure comprises third and fourth spaced apart hooks, and feeding the clip causes a boss of the first clip leg to engage the first and second hooks and a boss of the second clip leg to engage the third and fourth hooks.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

99. (New) The method according to claim 98 wherein the first clip leg comprises first and second boss surfaces, the second clip leg comprises third and fourth boss surfaces, and feeding the clip causes the first and second boss surfaces to respectively engage the first and second hooks and the third and fourth boss surfaces to respectively engage the third and fourth hooks.
100. (New) A method for enabling a polymeric latching clip to be approximated in preparation for applying the clip at a surgical site, comprising:
- (a) during a first stage of a forward stroke of a clip applying apparatus, the apparatus comprising a jaw assembly and a clip feeding device, actuating the clip feeding device in a distal direction to feed a clip into the jaw assembly;
 - (b) preventing the clip from moving in a proximal direction away from the jaw assembly during the first stage; and
 - (c) during a second stage of the forward stroke subsequent to the first stage, enabling the jaw assembly to be selectively actuated between alternate open and closed positions for controllably manipulating the clip during the second stage in preparation for applying the clip.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

101. (New) The method according to claim 100 wherein actuating the clip feeding device during the first stage comprises operating a user-grippable actuator to actuate the clip feeding device, and enabling selective actuation of the jaw assembly during the second stage comprises operating the user-grippable actuator to actuate a jaw actuating member into contact with the jaw assembly.
102. (New) The method according to claim 101 wherein preventing the clip from moving in the proximal direction during the first stage comprises engaging the user-grippable actuator with a ratchet member while actuating the clip feeding device, and enabling selective actuation of the jaw assembly between the alternate open and closed positions during the second stage comprises disengaging the user-grippable actuator from the ratchet member.
103. (New) A method for preparing a polymeric latching clip for application at a surgical site, comprising:
- (a) rotating a clip disposed in a clip applying apparatus to align a rear portion of the clip adjoining two opposing legs thereof with a feeder tab of the apparatus; and
 - (b) feeding the clip into a jaw assembly of the apparatus by actuating the feeder tab into contact with the rear clip portion.

Serial No.: 09/905,679

104. (New) The method according to claim 103 wherein feeding the clip comprises actuating the feeder tab toward the jaw assembly during a forward stroke of the apparatus.
105. (New) The method according to claim 104 wherein rotating the clip comprises operating the apparatus during a return stroke preceding the forward stroke.
106. (New) The method according to claim 103 wherein the apparatus comprises a clip feeding device, the clip feeding device comprises the feeder tab and a foot member, and rotating the clip comprises actuating the clip feeding device to engage the foot member with the clip.
107. (New) The method according to claim 106 wherein rotating the clip comprises actuating the clip feeding device away from the jaw assembly, and actuating the feeder tab into contact with the rear clip portion comprises actuating the clip feeding device toward the jaw assembly.